

WELCOME TO THE BOATHOUSE



THE "25-N" FLAG FIRST HOISTED, 1887

THE COMMODORE'S STORY

THE YACHT CLUB

This spring of 1887 it was apparent that the Bay could provide all the boats necessary for a yacht race, and it was decided to celebrate Washington's Birthday with an open regatta. There were fifteen responses to the notices issued, and every boat showed up and made a start, the fleet being divided into three classes. It was a success in every way, the winners being *Ada*, Captain Brickell, *Maggie*, Captain Carney, and *Edna*, Captain Addison, while Alfred Munroe and Charles Peacock were time-keepers and judges. After the race all hands, about fifty in number, participated in a good dinner at Peacock's, given by the promoters. Thus began organized aquatic sports on the Bay, the Washington's Birthday regatta afterward being a fixture of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, until the displacement of sails by gasoline in general interest caused it to degenerate into a "chowder-party."

The Club had its origin a little later that spring, one day at Peacock's; Kirk Munroe broached the subject, and we at once organized, he electing me commodore, and I doing the same for him as secretary. This friendly arrangement lasted without interruption until 1909, when I declined renomination, my health being poor, and the club having transferred most of its activities to Miami. Kirk continued as secretary until 1922. I designed the club flag, bearing the emblem of a large "N" interlaced with the figures "25" signifying twenty-five degrees north latitude, since we were the most southern club in the country. Mariners abbreviate this to 25 N, but as mariners are not very common among yachtsmen the flag device has almost always had to be explained, and therefore is not entirely a success!

For many years the club membership was limited to fifty, then to one hundred, all active yachtsmen interested in the Bay, and many famous names appeared upon the roster. Headquarters for some time were in the second floor of my boathouse, built in the summer of 1886.